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## Merit Award Scholarship Promise Kept

Sen. Patty Birkholz in full support of deadline extension

LANSING -- To keep the promise of the Michigan Merit Award Scholarship for eligible college freshmen, the Senate this week took up legislation co-sponsored by Sen. Patricia Birkholz, R-Saugatuck, to extend the deadline until November 15 this year to certify MEAP results. Senate Bill 701 extends the date by which a college freshman must certify his or her Merit Award score from September 15 to November 15 for this year only.

“The Merit Award Scholarships have been promised to high school students who perform well on the MEAP test and they mean a lot to the students and their families,” Sen. Birkholz said. “I am in full support of this legislation so students who are awaiting results are not penalized for the delay in scores being released. Extending the deadline is a way for us to show our commitment to education.”

Delays in the release of the MEAP test this summer have left many college freshmen awaiting notification of whether they qualify for the Merit Award Scholarships.

Final approval of the bill by the Senate is expected early next week.

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**Comments from Senator Birkholz on the Merit Award Scholarships are available for download on the Senate Majority Audiowire at [www.senate.michigan.gov/gop](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop). The comments are also available by calling the radio hotline at 517-373-4000**